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FPA Conducts Successful Flexible Packaging Resource Recovery Pilot Program

Examining Alternatives to Landfill for Flexible Packaging Waste

Linthicum, MD: October 12, 2011 – Synthetic crude oil, condensed wax, fuel pellets, and combustible gases are the valuable end-products that were successfully produced from pre and post-consumer flexible packaging waste during a series of pilot studies conducted by the Flexible Packaging Association. The full results of the pilot studies are available in **FPA's *Flexible Packaging Resource Recovery Alternatives to Landfill: Pilot Program Report***.

New and emerging resource recovery technologies were utilized to convert flexible packaging scrap and waste into materials that can be used as energy. The pilot studies are a part of the FPA Flexible Packaging Waste Resource Recovery Program, which the association is conducting on behalf of its membership to evaluate end-of-life options for difficult-to-recycle flexible packaging waste.

FPA launched the Flexible Packaging Waste Resource Recovery Program in 2010 to identify companies and technologies that could utilize flexible packaging as feedstock to produce fuel, energy, or other value added end-products. The most promising technologies, identified in a study conducted for FPA by Columbia University's Earth Engineering Center, were incorporated into the two-phase pilot studies.

Patented resource recovery processes used by Agilyx Corporation, Climax Global Energy (CGE), Dongara, and Eviron were tested during trials which utilized pre-consumer and post consumer flexible packaging waste. The materials performed well with all of the technologies, however the Envion process was somewhat more restrictive.

The collection of post-consumer flexible packaging waste was a challenging task for FPA. TerraCycle, an upcycling and mechanical recycling company, helped FPA meet this challenge by contributing 2000 pounds of post-consumer waste. The mix of packages roughly mirrored the global consumer flexible packaging volume mix with an assortment of EVOH, foil, PE, PP and PET.

During each phase of testing, pre and post-consumer flexible packaging materials were successfully converted into diesel fuel, industrial wax, and other materials that can be utilized as energy. **FPA's *Flexible Packaging Resource Recovery Alternatives to Landfill: Pilot Program Report*** is a benefit of FPA membership and is available in the Members Only section of the FPA website, www.flexpack.org.

About the Flexible Packaging Association

The Flexible Packaging Association is the National association of manufacturers of flexible packaging sold to end- users or distributors for packaging purposes; and material or equipment suppliers to the flexible packaging industry. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of those materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products. FPA has served as the voice of the flexible packaging industry in the United States since 1950.

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